

NCA
VOC FOR IOP/FN
BACKGROUNDER NO. 5-5724
BUI TUAN

APRIL 14, 1978

VIETNAM ANTI-CORRUPTION DRIVE

ANNCR:

VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES HAVE LAUNCHED A NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN AGAINST CORRUPTION...AS WE HEAR IN THIS BACKGROUND REPORT BY VOA'S BUI TUAN.

VOICE:

CORRUPTION, IT'S COMMONLY CLAIMED, IS A PRODUCT OF CAPITALISTIC SOCIETIES. BUT COMMUNIST VIETNAM IS NOW THE SCENE OF A MAJOR CAMPAIGN TO WIPE OUT CORRUPTION. ACCORDING TO THE PARTY'S OFFICIAL MAGAZINE, TAP CHI CONG SAN (COMMUNIST REVIEW, THE LATEST ANTI-CORRUPTION DRIVE TAKES IN THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR, HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS, COOPERATIVES AND THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT.

FROM ALL REPORTS, CORRUPTION IN VIETNAM HAS BEEN ON THE INCREASE SINCE THE FALL OF THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT TO NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES IN APRIL 1975. THE MASSIVE WEALTH, MODERN FACILITIES, AND HOARDS OF CONSUMER GOODS IN THE SOUTH WAS UNKNOWN TO MILITARY OFFICIERS AND CADRES COMING FROM THE AUSTERE NORTH.

VIETNAMESE MEDIA HAVE CITED NUMEROUS CASES OF CORRUPTION. THE ARMY NEWSPAPER, QUAN DOI NHAN DAN, FOR EXAMPLE, RECENTLY REPRIMANDED DRIVERS OF A MILITARY CONVOY IN THE SOUTH WHO SOLD MILITARY GASOLINE FOR CHICKENS. AND THE SAIGON PRESS REPORTS THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF VETERAN PARTY CADRES AND OFFICIALS WERE JAILED ON CORRUPTION CHARGES, INCLUDING DIRECTORS OF A NATIONALIZED COMPANY AND THE CHAIRMAN OF A PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE IN SAIGON. IN ADDITION, THE DIRECTOR OF SUPPLY AT SAIGON'S PORT WAS REPORTEDLY SENTENCED TO 13 YEARS IMPRISONMENT

FOR COLLUSION WITH WHAT THE SAIGON PRESS CALLED BOURGEOIS MERCHANTS." IN HANOI, AT LEAST NINE PERSONS WERE SENTENCED TO LONG PRISON TERMS ON CHARGES OF FORGING FOOD RATION STAMPS AND SELLING THEM THROUGH A NATIONWIDE NETWORK. "NHAN DAN," THE PARTY'S NEWSPAPER, CLAIMED THAT THE BLACK MARKET RING IN RATION STAMPS HAD SEVERELY HAMPERED THE COUNTRY'S GRAIN DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM.

ONE OF THE MOST PUBLICIZED INSTANCES OF CORRUPTION OCCURRED IN KIEN GIANG PROVINCE IN THE THE SOUTH. ACCORDING TO RADIO SAIGON, A NUMBER OF OFFICIALS THERE WERE INVOLVED IN THE EMBEZZLEMENT OF STATE FUNDS EARMARKED FOR WATER CONSERVANCY PROJECTS.

THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT THE HANOI GOVERNMENT HAS MADE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO WIPE OUT CORRUPTION. FOUR YEARS AGO, THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST PARTY POLITBURO PASSED A RESOLUTION WHICH RECOGNIZED THAT CORRUPTION WAS A MAJOR PROBLEM. AN INTENSIVE ANTI-CORRUPTION CAMPAIGN WAS LAUNCHED AT THAT TIME, WHICH RADIO HANOI NOW ADMITS MET WILL LITTLE SUCCESS. AND, SO THE PROCESS BEGINS A NEW.

JS/PY